

**CBP TASK FORCE  
QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT SCENARIOS**

**Working Definition of Scenario**

*This is the definition we developed at the start of Phase 2; we can modify it as the Task Force refines and evolves its understanding of scenarios and their utility.*

A scenario is a combination of one or more biological strategies and sets of assumed future conditions that we can consider relative to the goals. In its simplest form a scenario could consist of a set of targeted reductions in the current impacts of threat categories. More complex scenarios could include specific actions, evaluation of species-level and geographic considerations, and considerations related to timing and sequencing. In addition to biological strategies, scenarios also include a description of the social, cultural, economic and ecological considerations related to the biological strategies.

***Why are we identifying scenarios – what is their meaning, significance, or purpose?***

The purpose of scenarios is to explore various pathways to achieving the goals. Scenarios capture a range of options and choices confronting the region on how to achieve the goals and allow for evaluation of tradeoffs among alternative approaches.

All scenarios are intended to make substantive progress toward the goals. Ideally, all scenarios would achieve the high-range goals, although some might achieve them sooner than others, or have a higher certainty of achieving them.

***Do scenarios represent group consensus on the range of the possible? Does everyone have to agree on each strategy within the scenario for it to be valid?***

Scenarios represent the group consensus on the range of the possible. Ideally, Task Force members will reach consensus on a range of possible scenarios to advance. Not every Task Force member will need to support every strategy within each scenario or support each scenario being implemented.

***Are there important points outside of the scenarios that we could agree on?***

Yes, important points of agreement could provide an opportunity to convey a clear story and message from the Task Force. Ideally any such recommendations would be substantive enough to represent a significant advance or contribution to the region. We plan on discussing what those important points of agreement could be at the December Task Force meeting. Please bring ideas to further the discussion.

***To what extent do scenarios reflect different assumptions for future conditions?***

Assumptions about future conditions could be a component of any scenario. Further, a scenario could be organized around a theme related to future conditions. For example, the Project Team is developing a potential scenario theme focused on climate change that recognizes the challenges of a changing climate and makes strategic choices in light of related risks.

*DRAFT DOCUMENT*

*FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY*

In addition, the slider includes a dial for incorporating assumptions about climate change and/or future population growth as a means of examining how those assumptions would affect abundance of specific stocks under various threat-reduction scenarios.

***How do the social, cultural, economic, and ecosystem considerations (SCEE) fit with scenarios?***

There are multiple ways that SCEE considerations can fit with any scenario. One is that SCEE considerations could be developed as a component of a scenario based initially on biological strategies. Once we have identified biological strategies for a particular scenario, we could include a qualitative description of SCEE considerations relevant to that scenario. We can use the various considerations identified in the SERA report as a starting point for those qualitative descriptions. These SCEE considerations will be useful in helping to evaluate tradeoffs among different scenarios.

Another approach is that a scenario could be developed with SCEE considerations as the starting point – a viewpoint we’ve heard expressed by some Integration Team members. Under this approach, once we identify SCEE considerations, we would continue to develop the biological and other components of the scenarios.

***How do governance, funding, and public support fit into our Phase 2 work?***

Questions related to governance, funding, and public support definitely fit into the Phase 2 work of the Task Force. The Project Team recommends separating these issues from the biological strategies and SCEE, at least for the time being to work through their development. Ultimately, governance options may be integrated into scenarios. There may be general governance considerations as well as considerations related to specific scenarios. We anticipate convening a Path Forward/Governance Workgroup in December, following a Task Force discussion on direction.

Alternatively, a scenario could be developed with governance, public funding and public support as the starting point – a viewpoint we’ve heard expressed by some Integration Team members. Under this approach, once we identify governance, funding and public support options, we would continue to develop the biological and other components of the scenarios.

***In what ways do the slider and other tools help us define the full range of possible scenarios (creative thinking) or validate a particular scenario (consensus approach)?***

The tools that we have developed to inform the development and biological analysis of scenarios include the slider and the quantification of current impacts in various threat categories (as used for input to the slider and also as displayed in the heat maps). These tools will help inform the development of scenarios. For example, they will inform our understanding of the levels of effort required in all threat categories to achieve the goals. They will inform our understanding of how many potential pathways there are to achieving the goals, and whether it would be possible to achieve the goals by reducing impacts only in selected threats, or whether reductions in all threats would be needed. From such learnings, the Task Force may be able to draw some conclusions or develop some principles that apply to all or to selected scenarios. Conceivably, the slider could also be useful to evaluate the effect of specific strategies or sets of strategies, although it is unclear whether time or data availability will make that an appropriate application of the slider in Phase 2 of the Task Force process.

The Project Team will continue its work with the Technical Team to reach consensus on the quantification of threat impacts for each stock. As time allows, the Project Team may also continue work with the Technical Team to describe the current understanding of the potential to reduce current impacts in any threat category.